



Journal of Sedimentary Research

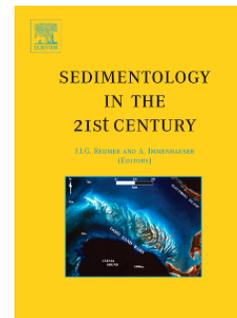
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Sedimentology in the Twenty-First Century—a Tribute to Wolfgang Schlager, edited by John J.G. Reijmer & Adrian Immenhauser, 2005. Elsevier B.V., Customer Service Department, Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8DP, UK (Europe, Middle East and Africa). Elsevier, Customer Service Department, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146, U.S.A. (U.S.A. and Canada). Hardcover, vii + 533 pages. Price USD 155.00; GBP 97.50; EUR 140.00. ISBN 0-444-52034-1.



Few book titles are so inviting as this one. Which sedimentologist would not like to know what will happen in his discipline during the next hundred years? Those early scientists that have become intrigued by the title and that have bought the book to be aware of future developments in sedimentology will, however, be disappointed. The title of the book promises more than the contents can make true.

This does not imply that the book is not interesting. On the contrary: it provides a wealth of highly interesting information, and it certainly deepens the insight of the reader in many important aspects of sedimentological research. “Many aspects” are, however, something quite different from “all aspects.” The variety of topics being dealt with is relatively small. The reason is that the book has been prepared as a tribute to Wolfgang Schlager, one of the prominent sedimentologists of our time. After (!) he had celebrated his 65th birthday, some of his numerous students and colleagues got the idea to surprise him with a work that was to be composed of contributions by his former students, his colleagues, and other sedimentologists that worked in the same fields as Schlager (and these fields are diverse, ranging from carbonate platforms to seismic modelling).

The tribute was realized in the form of a special issue of *Sedimentary Geology* (vol. 175). The book is a spin-off of this special issue, with just reprints of the various articles, but with additional articles from volume 178, which could—for various reasons—not be included in the special issue. Obviously, a book is a much more impressive tribute than a journal’s special issue, but one might question whether the book will sell well, as all material is already available in another form.

Yet, the book is, even more than the special issue, an impressive work. Its structure is perhaps not the most fortunate, however. It is divided into three main parts: (1) Cenozoic with subdivisions into Overviews and Concepts, Caribbean, Cool Water, Seismic Sedimentology, Drowning, and Carbonates and Clastics; (2) Mesozoic—with a subdivision into Concepts, and Case Studies; and (3) Palaeozoic—with Concepts, and Case Study. In my opinion, the various topics rather than the age should have formed the basis for the subdivision, as it would have shown better the spectrum of subjects dealt with by Schlager.

Obviously, there are more points that may raise criticism. It might have been highly interesting if the editors would have given an overview of the current fields covered by sedimentological research, with an indication in what fields Schlager has been active in one way or another. In spite of the presence of 2 (!) editorials, an overview of Schlager's work is dearly missing. Further it must be concluded that both the special issue and the book were made in haste. The numerous typing errors are sufficiently proof; even the title of part 1 of the book contains such an error in the list of contents! Further, editors that prepare a special issue—and particularly if it will be published as a book—should take care that correct units are used throughout the work. Abbreviations such as yr (year, a), ky (1000 years, ka), Km and KM (kilometres, km) reflect insufficient editorial care (or experience?). This is also seen in the reference lists of the various contributions, where inconsistencies can easily be found. Most regrettable, however, is the presence in the book of an erratum page, in the same form as printed in the journal. This could certainly have been done better!

Criticism is easy, but it should deal not only with negative aspects, but also with positive ones. And they are, fortunately, largely present. The book is well bound and, as is to be expected from “reprints” of *Sedimentary Geology*, well printed. The figures are, almost without exception, of high quality, both with respect to their scientific contents, and regarding their presentation (and information density). The frequent use of colour makes many figures outstanding. In contrast to many scientific books, where the paper chosen is to optimize readability of the text, but where this choice is at the expense of the quality of photos, the book under review is a perfect example of a work printed on paper that allows very well readable texts and that also allows magnificent reproduction of photographs. This makes the book an object that will please the reader again and again.

Finally, but certainly not least, the scientific contents of the book. It can only be deduced that Schlager has been an inspiring teacher, and a colleague with whom it was a pleasure to cooperate. This has resulted in contributions of high quality. The reader will, even if his eye was attracted by a contribution outside of his own specialism, read with pleasure, and deepen his insight. The book may, that is true, not provide a deeper insight into the whole field of sedimentology, but everybody will certainly learn something from it. It is only unfortunate that a relatively high price has to be paid for this interesting and enjoyable work.

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